IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

KIHARA et al. Atty. Ref.: 249-187

Serial No. Unknown Group:

Filed: August 6, 2001 Examiner:

For: MANUFACTURING METHOD OF POSITIVE ACTIVE MATERIAL FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY, NICKEL ELECTRODE USING THE SAME MATERIAL AND ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY USING THE SAME NICKEL ELECTRODE

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August 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

4. (Amended) A manufacturing method of a positive active material for alkaline storage battery according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of oxidation effected at said oxidizing step and the degree of reduction effected at said reducing step are adjusted so that the average valence of the higher order nickel hydroxide thus reduced is from 2.10 to 2.30.

5. (Amended) A manufacturing method of a positive active material for alkaline storage battery according to Claim 1, wherein said reducing step involves chemical reduction with a reducing agent.

6. (Amended) A nickel electrode comprising a porous electrode substrate filled with an active material slurry made of a positive active material prepared by the method defined in Claim 1 and a binder.

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**."

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

4. (Amended) A manufacturing method of a positive active material for alkaline storage battery according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein the degree of oxidation effected at said oxidizing step and the degree of reduction effected at said reducing step are adjusted so that the average valence of the higher order nickel hydroxide thus reduced is from 2.10 to 2.30.

5. (Amended) A manufacturing method of a positive active material for alkaline storage battery according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein said reducing step involves chemical reduction with a reducing agent.

6. (Amended) A nickel electrode comprising a porous electrode substrate filled with an active material slurry made of a positive active material prepared by the method defined in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1 and a binder.